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100,000
READERS

NEAR 90% VOTE TURN-OUT

Willett Wins South Bay Court Seat; King Re-elected by Slim Margin



CECIL R. KING



OTTO B. WILLETT

TORRANCE GIVES EISENHOWER MAJORITY

(Editor's Note: All figures quoted below are semi-official. Official returns will not be made known by the County Registrar's office until next week.)

In what was probably the most astounding election ever staged in the City of Torrance Dwight D. Eisenhower and his running mate Richard M. Nixon swept up a majority of votes here.

Slim though the lead was, the vote was none-the-less remarkable in that Torrance is traditionally Democratic and registered Democrats outnumber Republicans 2 to 1 in this city.

The election was marked by an outstanding turn-out of voters. In Torrance's 56 precincts 14,605 of the 16,607 registered voters exercised their voting franchise. This total, 88.6 per cent, is 6.4 per cent higher than the voting figures in the last presidential election.

Of major importance on the local scene Torrance City Judge Otto B. Willett beat his opponent Manhattan Beach City Judge D. Clifford Higgins by a margin of 4,115 votes throughout the district for office No. 2 of the South Bay Municipal Court.

Willett's strongest point, of course, was Torrance where he garnered 8,852 votes to Higgins' 3,655. Willett also led by a sizeable majority in Lomita, Rolling Hills, Redondo Beach, and Palos Verdes. Higgins took the lead only in his home city and in Hermosa Beach and Gardena. Total vote at press time was Willett 30,409; Higgins 26,294.

Democratic Congressman Cecil R. King, facing the only real opposition he has had in ten years, came within a hair's breadth of being unseated. In Torrance, ordinarily one of his strong areas, he tallied only a scant 950 margin over his Republican opponent Robert H. Finch.

His worst scare came in the Inglewood - Westchester region, where Finch has staged a hard-fought campaign. Even highly Democratic Wilmington and San Pedro did not give King the support his campaign managers expected. Final tally in this race: King 105,882; Finch 84,860.

Elementary schools within the Gardena-Wilmington and Lomita-San Pedro Councils, to be included in the building program are: Amestoy, 2 classrooms; 186th Street, 6 classrooms; Avalon Gardens, 2 classrooms; Channel Heights, 2 classrooms and Hall-dale Avenue, 4 classrooms.

Scheduled also are 3 new schools for the area. To be located on 156th Street, 232nd Place and Dolores Street. Each school to include 10 classrooms, 2 kindergarten rooms and a school office, Mrs. Gauley reported.

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The huge building will house special machinery to produce secret radio-electronic devices to be announced later, it has been reported.

New Schools Readied for Next Term

In order to meet the demands of increasing enrollments and to eliminate double-sessions in the elementary schools by next February, Superintendent of Los Angeles Schools, Alexander J. Stoddard, has ordered full speed ahead in the system's huge building program.

Under the accelerated program, money for which is coming from the \$130,000,000 June bond issue, the school system intends to build 11 new schools, to house 120 classrooms and 24 kindergartens. In addition 332 new classrooms will be built in 79 existing schools to meet the February deadline, according to Mrs. James W. Gauley, president of the Gardena-Wilmington Council PTA.

To speed opening of the new schools, immediate construction of permanent classroom buildings of the frame and stucco type on temporary foundations, has been authorized, she disclosed.

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DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



RICHARD M. NIXON

Heights Homeowners Seek Answer on Sewer Suit

After a long fight staged in the City Council chambers, residents of Seaside Heights were finally awarded partial relief from the excessive cost of a sanitary sewer system that was installed there last year.

Original estimate on the sewer installation was set at \$65,000 by the Torrance City engineering dept. Final cost of the job, however, amounted to \$84,000. After protests lodged by residents, an investigation was made which disclosed that certain changes had been made in the original plans without even the knowledge of the City Council. These changes, which included sewer line facilities or connections for non-residents of the district, resulted in hiking individual assessment from \$5 per front foot to \$8 per front foot.

After several lengthy and heated hearings, it was determined by the Council, that Seaside Heights homeowners were entitled to some measure of recompense. An ordinance establishing a hook-up fee of \$2.25 per front foot for future subdivisions on adjacent lands was passed.

A 56-home subdivision is now planned for the area just east and south of the Heights. Under the terms of the ordinance, the subdivision is to be assessed at \$2.25 per front foot for future subdivisions on adjacent lands was passed.

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Hint Sears Will Build Here Soon

It is being rumored around informed circles this week that Torrance can look for the establishment of a Sears store in this area within the near future.

A very authoritative source told the Press this week that the Del Amo Estates Co. had leased a section of their land at the corner of Torrance and Hawthorne Blvds. to the giant merchandising firm.

FREEWAY GROUP TO MEET SOON

The Torrance Chamber of Commerce is spearheading a move to keep the citizens and property owners informed of new development relative to the proposed Harbor Freeway route, according to an announcement made recently by Robert I. Plomert Jr., president of the local Chamber.

First step, he said, is the formation of a "watch dog" committee headed by Lawrence Harvey, executive vice president of the Harvey Machine Co. This body will assemble for its first meeting sometime next week, it was reported.

"Your local Chamber of Commerce is soliciting the co-operation of the presidents and secretaries of the chambers in adjacent cities, including Redondo Beach, Wilmington, San Pedro, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Hawthorne, El Segundo, Keystone, and Carson areas," Plomert said in his report.

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Free Boy in Pistol Death Of Sister, 12

Testifying before a Coroner's jury last Thursday, Mrs. Bertha Drews, 38-year-old widow, claimed major responsibility for her teenage daughter's shooting by a pistol in the hands of her young son.

As a result jurors held the death of Thelma Louise, 12, an accident, and excused the boy, Marion (Joe) Drews, 14.

His mother's testimony supported Joe's claim that he thought the gun was unloaded.

Fearing prowlers about their 22320 So. Main St. home in Keystone, Mrs. Drews said she kept the gun on a nightstand beside her bed. At the time of the accidental shooting she was visiting friends in Long Beach.

She disclosed that she removed the clip from the gun, but left a single cartridge in the chamber. The boy, apparently thinking the gun was completely empty, aimed at his sister who was watching television in the living room. His finger slipped on the trigger, he said, and his sister fell to the floor. She died several hours later at Harbor General Hospital.

The infant was rushed to the hospital by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Vaca of 2213 W. 203rd St., after his breathing failed. He was pronounced dead of a cardiac chest by Dr. N. Kaplan of the hospital. The child had been in ill health since his birth.

The body of the infant will be shipped to Ramirex Mortuary in Watts for services and burial this week, it was reported.

AMSTAN TOPS FUND QUOTA HERE

American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corp. ended its annual Community Chest drive with 96 per cent of its employees contributing to put the plant way over its quota, it was announced today by Sam Levy, chairman of the Harbor Area Red Feather drive.

Don Anderson director of personal for AmStan, reported to Chest officials that 266 of the firm's 278 employees contributed an average of \$4.47 each to the drive. According to Levy this figure is \$2 higher than the average (Continued on Page 12)

4-Day-Old Infant Dies

Tiny, four-day-old John Vaca was pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital last Monday night.

The infant was rushed to the hospital by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Vaca of 2213 W. 203rd St., after his breathing failed. He was pronounced dead of a cardiac chest by Dr. N. Kaplan of the hospital. The child had been in ill health since his birth.

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Grading Started for \$422,000 Reservoir

Grading operations have been started on a 10,000,000-gallon reservoir, one of the major projects of the city's \$2,000,000 water expansion program. The storage tank, to be located in the hills of South Torrance, will be a reinforced concrete structure, and will hold enough water to provide the city with approximately five times its present emergency water storage capacity, according to George W. Stevens, city manager.

The site purchased recently by the city provides space for at least one more reservoir of the same capacity, to be constructed at some future date.

Stevens stated that from this reservoir site, the city's main 24-inch supply line will run north along Crenshaw Blvd. to join present facilities north of Torrance Blvd. The contracts for supplying and laying this pipe line have already been awarded.

The elevation of the reservoir site is sufficiently high that water will flow from the Metropolitan Water District's Palos Verdes reservoir by the force of gravity alone. At the same time, the elevation will maintain a uniform pressure on the new main supply line, which is to be the backbone of the city's water system, Stevens said.

Completion Date
The contract for construction of the project was awarded to Chadwick and Buchanan, who submitted the low bid in the amount of \$422,268. The project is scheduled for completion within nine months, Stevens disclosed.

He indicated that upon completion the reservoir will be landscaped and used as a recreational area for neighborhood residents.

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\$35 Found In Garage

"Results—too good," said Mrs. Perry Connett. "I was either answering the door bell or the phone all day when I advertised several household items for sale in the Torrance Press Classifieds. I had sold everything by noon Thursday," she stated.

Here is the small, inexpensive ad that sold Mrs. Connett's furniture:

1 BUNK Bed \$5, 2 coil springs \$4 each, 4 cotton mattresses \$3 ea., child's writing desk \$3.50, 1424 Acacia, Phone 2069-M.

Have you any used furniture, old clothing, or miscellaneous items that are gathering dust instead of bringing a profit? You can turn them into dollars if you find the right buyer, and you can find your buyer among the 100,000 readers of the Torrance Press.

To place your classified ad, call Torrance 1185 and a courteous ad taker will aid you in writing an ad that will do the trick.

National Electric Building Started

Construction got under way this week on a new 12,000 square foot addition to the present facilities of National Electric Products Corp., it was revealed by Arthur Freshman, manager.

The huge building will house special machinery to produce secret radio-electronic devices to be announced later, it has been reported.

Twelve Torrance Men Rejoin 578th Engineers

Twelve Torrance men, veterans of Far East service with the 40th Division, have rejoined the 578th Engineer Battalion, it has been announced.

The battalion, which headquartered two companies in Torrance prior to its 1950 call to active duty, has been partially reorganized and is holding drills at the Manhattan Beach Armory.

Back with the unit are: M/Sgt. James F. Wilkes, 1742-A Cabrillo Ave.; SFC. Thomas M. Jones, 3020 Winlock St.; Sgt. Frank J. Bigler, 20422 Elliott St.; Sgt. Bobby L. Tyler, 832 Sartori St.; Pfc. Robert E. Edwards, 1866 Plaza del Amo; Pfc. Sunao Omatsu, 3501 Torrance Blvd.; SFC. Paul R. Comon, 1011 Amapola Ave.

Sgt. Jimmy L. Peary, 1533 W. 228th St.; Pfc. Mike Martinez, 2136 W. 203rd St.; Pfc. Daniel Villa, 2350 203rd St.; Sgt. Kenneth D. Camp, 1023 Madrid Ave.; Cpl. Bob J. Bisbee, 1317 Greenwood Ave.

Regular Meetings
The engineer battalion's headquarters, Headquarters and Service Company, and Company A, all former Torrance units are now holding regular meetings at 7:30 p.m. each Monday at the Manhattan armory, along with Company B, former South Bay unit.

The 578th was organized in the Torrance-Inglewood-South Bay area in 1947 and served as the local National Guard organization until it was ordered to active duty in September, 1950.

"Sunburst" Div.
After seven months' training at Camp Cooke, along with the rest

RED FEATHER WORKERS GET TWO TROPHIES

Two large, silver trophies representing outstanding work in the annual Red Feather Drive are on display this week at Sam Levy's Department Store.

Levy, who is the Harbor Area Community Chest Drive chairman, disclosed that the trophies, one the Merrill Award for organization, the other, the Valentine Award for highest percentage increase in Chest workers, have been awarded to the workers of the Harbor Area.

He pointed out that this is the second consecutive year that the Harbor Area has merited the Valentine Award.

Levy stated that the annual fund drive is well under way, and should be every bit as successful, as last year's over-the-top drive.

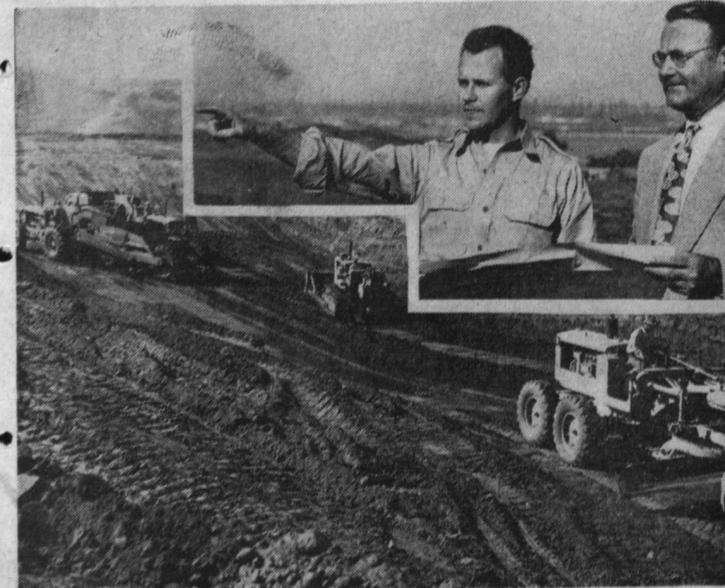
He stated, however, that he was sorry that more new faces were not appearing among the ranks of the Chest workers. "We have many faithful volunteer workers who contribute their time and energy each year, but we would like to see more citizens participate in this worthwhile activity."

By May 4, when the program of returning the original National Guard members to the United States was near completion, one Silver Star for gallantry and two Bronze Stars for valor in action had been awarded three 578th men, as well as Purple Heart's to five men for wounds received in combat against the Chinese Reds.

Places are now open for new enlistees, Lt. Col. Dallas I. Downs, battalion commander, pointed out today.

Lt. Col. Downs, who also commanded the unit during its recent stint of combat, said State draft officials will give a 1-D draft classification to young men between 17 and 18½ years of age who sign up with the Guard. However, they must maintain a good attendance record at the weekly drills, Downs added.

The Manhattan armory is located at 532 36th St. and its telephone number is Frontier 2-6611.



BIG BITES—Huge slices of earth are moved from the site of the 10-million gallon reservoir being built by the water department in South Torrance. Slated for completion within nine months, the tank will be covered and landscaped. In right-hand corner John W. Buchanan, partner in the firm of Chadwick and Buchanan, builders of the tank, explains the layout to City Manager George Stevens.



THEY DID THEIR PART—Boy Scouts from several Torrance troops massed downtown last Saturday morning to stage a parade urging all Torrance residents to vote. Their efforts really paid off—the vote was nearly 90 per cent.